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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/551,271

09/28/2005

Masahiro Tada

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EXAMINER

TSAL, H JEY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2812

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

04/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/551,271	Applicant(s) TADA ET AL.	
	Examiner H.Jey Tsai	Art Unit 2812	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Brunner 2005/0221528.

Brunner discloses a method for manufacturing a micromachine including an oscillator, comprising:

a step of forming a sacrifice layer 209, 205 around a movable portion of the oscillator 206; para. 26, 37-49, figs 3a-3f,

a step of covering the sacrifice layer with an overcoat film 211,
followed by the formation of a penetrating hole 213 reaching the sacrifice layer 209, 205 in the overcoat layer 211;

a step of performing sacrifice-layer etching for removing the sacrifice layer 209, 205 using the penetrating hole 213 in order to form a space around the movable portion 206; and a step of performing a film-formation treatment at a reduced pressure

(vacuum) following the sacrifice-layer etching so as to seal the penetrating hole,
para.46.

regarding claim 2, wherein the method is applied to a micromachine having
means for driving oscillation in the oscillator, para. 26, 46.

regarding claim 5, wherein the film-formation treatment at a reduced pressure is
a film-formation treatment by sputtering, para. 46.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103 as being unpatentable over Bruner
as applied to claims 1-2 and 5 above, and further in view of Lin et al. 5,589,082 or
Schmid 6,761,068.

The difference between the references applied above and the instant
claim(s) is: Bruner teaches forming a MEMS device having an oscillator but does not
teach the means for driving the oscillation. However, Lin et al. teaches at col. 1, lines
25-31, means for driving oscillation is piezoelectric and at col. 1, lines 60-65, means for
driving oscillation is electrostatic force. Lin et al. also teaches at fig. 7Q-7S, col. 11,
lines 17-37, a step of forming a sacrifice layer 452 around a movable portion of the

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oscillator 450, a step of covering the sacrifice layer with an overcoat film 456, followed by the formation of a penetrating hole 458 reaching the sacrifice layer 452 in the overcoat layer, a step of performing sacrifice-layer etching for removing the sacrifice layer 452 using the penetrating hole 458 in order to form a space around the movable portion 450; and a step of performing a film-formation treatment at a reduced pressure following the sacrifice-layer etching so as to seal the penetrating hole. Schmid teaches at col. 4, lines 1-12, means for driving oscillation are static electric or piezoelectric.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above references' teachings by using static electric or piezoelectric for driving oscillation as taught by Lin et al. or Schmid because static electric and piezoelectric would cause the movable portion of the device to oscillate so that an oscillation is formed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to H. Jey Tsai whose telephone number is (571) 272-1684. The examiner can normally be reached on from 7:00 Am to 4:00 Pm., Monday thru Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael S. Lebentritt can be reached on (571) 272-1873.

The fax phone number for this Group is 571-273-8300.

hjt

4/15/2007



H. Jey Tsai
Primary Examiner
Patent Examining Group 2800